



BOROUGH OF BEWDLEY

ANNUAL REPORT

of

**Medical Officer of Health
and Public Health Inspector
for**

1965



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BEWDLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Mayor:

Councillor Mrs. N. C. ANSON

Chairman of Health Committee:

Councillor R. C. B. BANKS

Health Committee:

Alderman Mrs. D. L. LAWRENCE

Councillor A. M. W. FORBES

Councillor W. CROSS

Councillor J. ROSE

Councillor Mrs. J. RICE

Councillor L. M. KEY

Medical Officer of Health:

Dr. R. W. MARKHAM, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector:

Mr. J. E. SHEEN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (until 8-3-1965)

Mr G. J. EASTBURY, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H. (from 9-3-1965)

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
HEALTH COMMITTEE
BEWDLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year 1965.

In accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health, the Report is divided into the following sections:—

- “A” Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.
- “B” General Provisions of Health Service.
- “C” Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.
- “D” Housing.
- “E” Inspection and Supervision of Food.
- “F” Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

SECTION "A"

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (in acres)	3,681
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population (mid-1965)	5,370
Population (Census 1961)	5,041
Estimated number of inhabited houses and self- contained flats (end of 1965)	2,022
Rateable Value	£92,201
Sum represented by One Penny Rate	£585

Industry within the Borough is on a small scale, the area being mainly residential. The principal source of local employment is a factory processing Animal Feeding Stuffs, Seeds, Fertilisers, etc., where 77 persons were employed during 1965.

Other sources of employment, besides Agricultural, includes a Saw Mill and, remaining from the traditional Bewdley industries, a Brass Foundry, Rope Works and Leather Works.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE AREA

Live Births

		1965			1964		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate		105	62	43	100	52	48
Illegitimate		4	3	1	8	5	3
		109	65	44	108	57	51

The Live Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population of the Borough was: 1965, 21.6 (1964, 20.3).

The Live Birth rate for England and Wales was 1965, 18.0 (1964 18.4).

Still Births

		1965			1964		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate		2	1	1	—	—	—
Illegitimate		—	—	—	—	—	—
		2	1	1	—	—	—

The Still Birth rate per 1,000 births (Live and Still) was: 1965, 18.34 (1964, 0.0).

The Still Birth rate per 1,000 births for England and Wales was: 1965, 15.7.

The Still Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population in the Borough was 1965, 0.39 (1964, 0.0).

Deaths

	1965				1964		
	Total	Male	Female		Total	Male	Female
	66	32	34		56	28	28

The Death rate for the whole of England and Wales was: 1965, 11.4 (1964, 11.3).

Maternal Mortality

There were no deaths of mothers associated with childbirth during the year.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

		1965				1964		
		Total	Male	Female		Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	....	3	1	2		—	—	—
Illegitimate	....	—	—	—		—	—	—
		3	—	2		—	—	—

Causes of Death:	Atelectasis	=	2
	Pre-Eclamptic Toxaemia	=	1
			3

The Infant Mortality rate was: 1965, 26.9 (1964, 0.0).

The Infant Mortality rate for England and Wales was: 1965, 19.0 (1964, 19.9).

Causes of Death

Ref. No.					Male	Female
10, 11, 12, 14.	Cancer	....	....	....	8	8
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System				6	8
18, 19, 20, 21.	Heart Disease	....	....	....	9	11
23.	Pneumonia	....	....	....	3	1
24.	Bronchitis	....	....	....	4	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	....	....	....	1	5
35.	Suicide	....	....	....	1	—
					—	—
	TOTAL	....	....	....	32	34
					—	—

There were no deaths during the year from Diphtheria, Measles or Whooping Cough.

SECTION "B"

General Provision of Health Services for the Area Hospitals

The following hospitals administered by the Midland Regional Hospital are available:—

1. The Kidderminster General Hospital for general medical and surgical cases.
2. The Kidderminster General Hospital, Bewdley Road (formerly Blakebrook Hospital).
3. The Hayley Green Isolation Hospital for Infectious Diseases.
4. The Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital at Stourport.
5. The Croft Maternity Home.

Ambulance Service

This is provided by the Worcestershire County Council as Local Health Authority.

A system of radio control, based on Worcester, deals with all applications, including emergency calls. At the same time the station at Kidderminster gives a 24 hour service.

Clinics

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held fortnightly with a doctor in attendance monthly, when Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, and Tetanus immunisation and vaccination are carried out, and Oral poliomyelitis vaccine are administered.

Tuberculosis

- (1) Treatment — A dispensary is held thrice weekly at the Kidderminster General Hospital.
- (2) Prevention and After Care — Preventive measures of this disease are the responsibility of the County Council and are carried out under the direction of the County Medical Officer.

An After-Care Sub-Committee administers this service in the district in conjunction with other districts in the Kidderminster Divisional Area.

Domestic Help Service

Under arrangements made by the Local Health Authority, Home Help Service has been established in the district and is administered locally by the Women's Voluntary Service. At the end of the year, 1 full-time, 10 part-time home helps were employed and 56 Chronic and General and 2 Maternity cases received attention. The majority of Chronic and General cases were old persons.

Approximately 120 hot meals were provided and distributed during the river flooding in December.

SECTION "C"

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water Supply

The number of houses supplied from the public water mains direct to the house is 1,687, and the population served is approximately 5,200. 34 houses are supplied from standpipes and the population served is approximately 85. Eight houses obtain water from private sources and the population served is approximately 26.

Drainage and Sewerage

No serious nuisance has occurred during the year concerning the drainage system in general.

Further extensions were made to the sewerage in the area with connections for the Hales Park Estate and an extension of the sewer to Riverside North.

SECTION "D"

Housing

New Accommodation

20 old persons' bungalows and 59 houses were built by the Corporation during the year.

179 Dwellings were completed by private enterprise.

Slum Clearance

Progress was made on the erection of further dwellings on the Springhill Estate and several of these dwellings were reserved for use in connection with the resumption of slum clearance within the Borough.

Official Representations were submitted in regard to 9 dwellings, and 3 houses were demolished during the year.

Caravan Sites

There are four sites authorised under the Caravan Sites control of Development Act, 1960. These are at:—

- (1) The Brant Farm, Upper Blackstone.
- (2) Hursts Meadow, Northwood Lane.
- (3) Hillcroft Trailer Park, Cleobury Road.
- (4) Riverside Caravan Park, Dowles Road.

New permits now allow a combined total of 474 caravans.

The Wyre Hill Camping Site has been in use for many years and is licensed under the Public Health Act, 1936. Caravans are not permitted and do not use the site.

SECTION "E"

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Bacteriological examinations of samples taken from producers and manufacturers, and all chemical examinations of food, milk and water are carried out by the Worcestershire County Council Laboratory. Bacteriological examinations of consumer samples of milk, water and ice-cream are undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory of the Worcester Royal Infirmary, in addition to the routine clinical pathology.

Food Poisoning

No cases of Food Poisoning or Suspected Food Poisoning were notified during the year.

Meat Inspection

Meat Inspection Services and general supervision of Food Premises were carried out by the Public Health Inspector during the year. (See Public Health Inspector's Report.)

SECTION "F"

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases

Diphtheria Immunisation

Pre-School Children			97
Reinforcing Doses			137

Smallpox Vaccination

Number Vaccinated			62
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B.C.G. Vaccination

Number Invited			68
Number Accepted			58
Percentage Accepted			85
B.C.G. Negative	....	....	51
Positive	....	....	5
Number Absent	....	....	2
Percentage Positive	....	....	8.6

Poliomyelitis

Immunisation continues for children and adults.

Notifications

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year are shown in the following table:—

Disease		Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths Total
Scarlet Fever	....	18	—	—
Measles	....	21	—	—
Whooping Cough	....	3	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	....	—	—	—

Tuberculosis

The following table gives particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the area during the year.

Age	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2	0	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2		nil		nil		nil	

A total number of 22 T.B. cases on the Borough Register for December 31st, 1965, were as follows:—

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
M.	F.	M.	F.
17	2	1	2

CONCLUSION

I should like to thank the Mayor, Members of the Council, and the Council's Staff, for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. W. MARKHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Year 1965

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1965. Members will recall that the Borough Surveyor and Public Health Department was separated into two departments in March of this year when I was appointed as Public Health Inspector to the Borough.

Several changes have occurred during 1965 which have improved the services of this department to the Borough. Not least has been the introduction of a weekly system of refuse collection to all parts of the Borough in April instead of the fortnightly collection as carried out in previous years.

This year saw the first full year of operation of the Offices, Shops and Railways Premises Act, 1963, and a survey of the work carried out is contained in a later part of my report.

Finally I should like to thank the Mayor, members of the Council, my Medical Officer of Health and the Council's staff, for their help and consideration during the year.

HOUSING

Official representations were made in regard to 9 sub-standard dwellings within the Borough. Closing Orders were confirmed on six dwellings and three dwellings were the subject of Demolition Orders. Three houses were demolished during the year as a result of action under Housing Act, 1957.

A housing survey was commenced during the latter part of the year and when completed it should give a better picture of the condition of dwellings within the Borough.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

There are 81 food shops and other food-preparing premises within the district. Whilst the majority of these premises are retail food shops, the total includes school canteens, hotels, etc., but excludes agricultural properties. All premises are visited as frequently as possible but not less than at least once a year.

Meat Inspection

Four Slaughtermen's licences were renewed during the year and one new licence was issued.

Two Slaughterhouses remain in regular use within the Borough and these were re-licensed in July. Regular visits are made to these premises for the purpose of meat inspection.

A total number of 327 visits were made to food premises during the year these included 253 visits made to slaughterhouses for meat inspection purposes. These inspections are carried out at the time of slaughtering whenever possible or as soon as practicable afterwards.

The table set out below indicates the number of carcasses slaughtered and inspected and contains a summary of the number of carcasses affected by disease.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle (excluding Cows)		Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	100	Nil	Nil	1855	446	
Number inspected	90	Nil	Nil	1695	403	
All diseases except Tuberculosis:						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	

Condemned Food

The total quantity of meat and offal condemned at slaughterhouses during the year amounted to 3 cwts. 3 qrts. 6 lbs. Other miscellaneous food condemned and surrendered as unfit for human consumption amounted to 2 cwts. 22 lbs.

The method of disposal of condemned food is by incineration, except in the case of meat and offal at slaughterhouses. This is stained green, as recommended, and collection made by authorised dealers.

Factories Acts 1961

Part I of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for the purpose of provisions as to Health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number of			
	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(3)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	4	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	20	22	2	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	22	26	2	Nil

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found. (If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	1	—	—	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	1	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	Nil
Total	4	4	—	1	Nil

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963

93 samples of milk, heat treated within the Borough, were taken by the Food and Drugs Authority (Worcestershire County Council) during the year. Analysis results were as follows:—

Phosphatase Test			Methylene Blue Test		
Pass	Fail	Void	Pass	Fail	Void
93	—	—	85	1	2

Note—Methylene Blue Test void when shade temperature exceeds 65° F

Ice-Cream

No new applications were received during the year for registration of premises for the storage and sale of Ice-cream. Twenty-five retailers are registered for the sale of Ice-cream, many of whom deal only in pre-packed products.

RODENT CONTROL

During the year the following infestations have been dealt with in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food:—

Corporation Property (excluding dwelling houses)	...	...	...	...	8
Private Dwellings	...	...	...	...	157
Business Premises	...	...	...	...	97
Agricultural, etc.	...	...	...	...	—
Total					262

These figures are taken from the annual return as required by the Ministry and do not indicate the actual number of treatments carried out. The Corporation tip, for example, requires fortnightly attention at least, but is shown only once in this return.

REFUSE COLLECTION

In April of this year a weekly system of refuse collection was introduced throughout the Borough. After the first initial teething troubles the scheme has worked well necessitating the use of two refuse collection vehicles and seven refuse collectors and drivers.

It was found necessary to replace the old side loading refuse vehicle and a new 9/12 cubic yard compression vehicle was purchased at the end of the year.

Problems of refuse storage at premises are increasing due to the changing nature of refuse.

The house and trade refuse collected is still disposed of by tipping on a site approximately 1½ miles from the town centre.

SUMMARY OF WORK OF DEPARTMENT

A total number of 1,086 visits were distributed as follows:—

Housing Defects, overcrowding, etc.	..	....	231
Houses let-in-lodgings	....	....	12
Factories (Part I only)	....	....	13
Food premises (including meat inspections)	....		327
Water supply	....	....	16
Rodent and other Pest Control (excluding operator's visits)	....	....	28
Caravan sites	....	....	18
Drainage Works	....	....	72
Refuse complaints, Corporation Tip, etc.	....		137
Miscellaneous	....	....	194
Rodent treatments	....	....	262

I am,

Your obedient servant,

GRAHAM J. EASTBURY,
Public Health Inspector.

